



TRAFFIC HAZARDS AND TRAFFIC ENGINEERING

FC No.: 1032

Date: 05-21-18

If a provision of a regulation, departmental directive, or rule conflicts with a provision of the contract, the contract prevails except where the contract provision conflicts with State law or the Police Collective Bargaining Law. (FOP Contract, Article 61)

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I. Policy

It is the policy of this department for members to attempt to resolve any traffic hazard or road defect coming to their attention. This includes defects to public facilities, utilities, etc. Members will take appropriate corrective action to remove the hazard or provide for its removal by county, state, or private agencies that have specific responsibility for correcting such hazards.

II. Definitions

- A. **Hazardous Material:** *Any element, compound or combination that is flammable, corrosive, explosive, toxic, radioactive, an oxidizer or is highly reactive and which, because of handling, storing, processing and packaging may have a detrimental effect on people, equipment or the environment.*
- B. **Roadside Hazards:** *All physical features of the roadside environment, which are such that a vehicle leaving the improved road surface for any reason, even momentarily, can impact with them, resulting in personal injury or property damage.*
- C. **Roadway Hazards:** *Temporary or permanent physical features and environmental conditions in the improved portion of the roadway that have the potential to cause personal injury or property damage or that effect the safe and efficient flow of traffic.*
- D. **Traffic Engineering Deficiency:** *A particular aspect of roadway design that creates a hazardous condition that impedes the safe and efficient flow of traffic, including the physical design of the roadway or auxiliary structures (e.g., signs, poles, barriers or traffic signals).*

III. General Guidelines

- A. Officers encountering a **traffic** hazard such as a non-functioning traffic signal or debris in the roadway will:
 - 1. Take reasonable steps to remedy the situation.
 - 2. Make notification to the appropriate agency to arrange for correction or removal of the hazard.
 - 3. Remain on the scene and, if necessary, provide traffic direction and control until the **hazard** is removed **or relieved**.
- B. ***When an officer encounters multiple traffic hazards within an area, the officer will notify ECC. The officer should prioritize the hazards and take reasonable steps to address the most serious hazards first.***

IV. Correcting Road or Engineering Defects

- A. Defects or Hazards Requiring Emergency Repair or Removal
 - 1. Any defective traffic control device that affects the movement of traffic is considered in need of emergency repair for the purposes of this directive. Likewise, any debris, hazardous material, or dead animal that presents a hazard must be considered as an emergency for purposes of this directive. For example:
 - a. Traffic signals (malfunctioning, inoperable)
 - b. ***Traffic control signs (missing, damaged)***
 - c. ***Damaged utilities (power lines, watermain breaks)***
 - d. ***Fallen trees***
 - e. ***Fluid/hazardous material spills***
 - f. Dead/injured animals
 - 2. Officer Responsibility - Officers observing a defect requiring emergency repair or a hazardous debris problem ***on state, county, or municipal roads*** will notify ECC, via radio or mobile data computer, of the location and nature of the incident. Officers noticing a traffic flow problem which could be alleviated by re-timing of a computerized traffic signal will notify Traffic Management Center (TMC) via ECC.
 - 3. ECC Responsibility
 - a. ECC will maintain a list of notification telephone numbers for various public agencies and utilities.
 - b. When notified of a defect, ECC personnel will notify the appropriate agency.
- B. Routine Repairs, Maintenance, or Improvements
 - 1. Officers will refer to FC 1021, "Motor Vehicle Collisions," when collision damage occurs to county property and no report is written.
 - 2. Officers observing a need for routine repairs and maintenance to traffic control devices or public utilities, or a non-emergency road engineering improvement, will complete an MCP 38, "Defect Notice," and forward the form to their district commander. ***Officers not assigned to a district station will forward the completed MCP 38 to the district commander in the district where the collision occurred.*** Examples of engineering defects include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Defects in the road itself.
 - b. Lack of, or defects in, highway safety features (e.g., impact attenuation devices, reflectors).
 - c. Lack of, improper, or visually obstructed traffic control devices and/or traffic control and informational signs.
 - d. Lack of or defective highway lighting systems.
 - 3. The district commander, or designee, will determine the appropriate agency to make the repairs and will fax ***or email*** the ***MCP 38*** directly to that agency.
 - 4. The original MCP 38 will be filed at the district station, alphabetically by street name.

5. The district commander will also establish procedures to periodically review the file to determine if a correlation exists between noted defects and collisions at that location. If a correlation is noted, the agency responsible for correcting the defect will be contacted to ensure that appropriate action is being taken.

V. Coordination with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT)

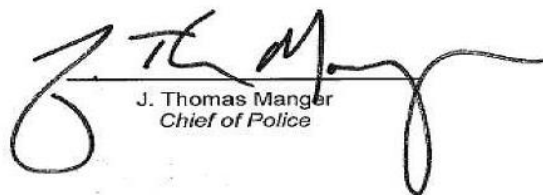
- A. All requests for information, service, or action regarding long-term traffic engineering problems/solutions, originating from the **MCDOT** will be coordinated through the Traffic Division (e.g., **Golf Tournament**, **Holiday Parade**, County Fair, etc.).
- B. Such requests will include but are not be limited to:
 1. Requests for traffic/parking survey information.
 2. Collision/engineering/safety studies.
 3. Traffic planning/management issues that require **MCDOT** input.
 4. Use of **MCDOT** equipment or resources for special events.
 5. The need for signal or sign changes to address traffic pattern/flow problems.
- C. All other requests for routine service may be handled as enumerated in section **IV** above.

VI. CALEA Standards: 61.3.1, 61.4.2

VII. Proponent Unit: Traffic Division

VIII. Cancellation

This directive cancels Function Code 1032, **03-03-03**



J. Thomas Manger
Chief of Police